

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 21, 2006. Claims 1-13 are pending. Claims 1, 9 and 12 are independent and claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 11 and 12 have been amended herein.

In the Office Action, claims 10-12 are objected to as being in improper form. Applicants have amended the claims to overcome the objections. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw those objections.

In the Office Action, claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,440,452 to Kitahara (hereinafter referred to as "Kitahara").

Claim 1 is not anticipated by Kitahara because claim 1, as amended recites, "wherein the conductor pattern extends over and is recessed in the first and the second side." Nowhere does Kitahara teach or suggest a recessed conductor pattern in a first and second side of an insulating body as recited in claim 1. In contrast, Kitahara discloses a lead 3 that rests on top of a frame 4 (see Kitahara, Fig. 16). Since Kitahara does not teach or suggest a conductor pattern extending over and being recessed in a first and second side of an insulating body, as recited in claim 1, Kitahara does not teach every element of claim 1 and claim 1 is therefore not anticipated by Kitahara. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

Independent claims 9 comprises similar features as claim 1 and is therefore not

anticipated by Kitahara for at least the reason discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claim 9 is in condition for allowance and request that the examiner withdraw that rejection.

Claims 2-8 and depend from claim 1 and are therefore not anticipated by Kitahara for at least the reason discussed above with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-8 are in condition for allowance and request that the examiner withdraw those rejections.

In the Office Action, claims 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitahara in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,486,412 to Kato. Applicants submit that the prior art references when combined must teach or suggest all the claim limitations (MPEP 706.02(j)). Independent claims 10 and 12 comprise similar features as claim 1 and are therefore not anticipated by Kitahara for at least the reason discussed above with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claims 10 and 12 are in condition for allowance and request that the examiner withdraw that rejection.

Claim 11 depends from claim 10 and is therefore not anticipated by Kitahara for at least the reason discussed above with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 is in condition for allowance and request that the examiner withdraw that rejection.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the currently-pending claims are in condition for allowance and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited. The Commissioner of Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or surcharges that may be required, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

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